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## **LARSON HOUSING AND EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES APPROVED BY CONGRESS**

*Washington, DC* -- Today, the House of Representatives approved funding requested by Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) for critical housing and social services projects in the Hartford area at the Hartford Housing Authority, Mercy House and Shelter Corporation and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Hartford. With the current economic downturn, this funding and support is more important than ever. The funding would allow for the renovation and revitalization of two local low-income housing facilities as well as the development of educational programs and facilities in distressed neighborhoods.

The projects come as part of a broader bill that will help enact our long term economic strategy to provide short term help to the neediest Americans and long term solutions to help improve our economy and give our youth the opportunity to succeed. The legislation will now go on to the Senate for passage and then the White House for the President's signature.

Congressman Larson said, **"These projects are necessary now more than ever to help our neighbors who have been hit hardest by the economic downturn by providing them with a place to live now and in the long run by giving their kids the tools to succeed in the future."**

- **The Boys and Girls Club of Hartford will receive \$600,000** to establish a new presence in Hartford with a focus on decreasing neighborhood violence and giving local children new personalized educational opportunities. The funding would allow the Boys and Girls Club to renovate space for a headquarters within the SAND Community Center and give them support to expand their educational services during after-school hours.

- **The Hartford Housing Authority will receive \$500,000** to help provide housing for those at risk of losing theirs by attracting new tenants into the apartments at Nelton Court. The complex, built in 1947, houses 90 families in units described as "non-repairable" -- requiring

extensive and costly upgrades to make them livable. The less expensive plan will demolish the entire complex and replace it with approximately 80 units and a community center.

- **The Mercy House and Shelter Corporation will receive \$500,000** to restore the 200 year-old landmark St. Elizabeth House to bring it up to code and make it usable for housing.

**“These organizations provide vital services to our neighborhood and can help pave a pathway for a more robust local economy, a brighter future for our youth and a better sense of community on our streets,”** said Congressman Larson.

These projects were included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010 that makes targeted investments in areas that will rebuild our economy and keep our country safe. We increased funding for infrastructure, health and education to immediately create jobs while investing in our local communities and workforce for the long term. We also reaffirmed our commitment to our Veterans and military families. We looked closely at every line of our budget to cut and eliminate programs that weren't working and reduce the deficit over the long term.

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